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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MESSAGE

OF

MAYOR JOHN CORSCOT,

DELIVERED TO THE

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADISON,

APRIL 17, 1894.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

DELIVERED APRIL 17, 1894.

Gentlemen of the Common Council:

To us has been confided for the coming year the management of the business affairs of the city of Madison, and before entering upon the discharge of those duties it is proper that we should consider the financial condition of the city. Your attention is therefore respectfully called to the Clerk's Statement of the receipts and expenditures of the city for the year last past as well as to the present condition of the City Treasury:

The funds in the treasury April 10, 1893, were as follows:

Poll-tax funds	$85 00
Interest on refunding bonds	7,625 00
Interest on water bonds	1,600 00
Bond fund	8,660 97
Dane county — fines	451 00
Forest Hill cemetery fund	3,339 77
Free Library fund	4,277 73
Special sidewalk fund	88 47
Water fund	2,427 39
Special street funds	8,122 33
General fund	12,117 93
Total	$48,795 59

The receipts from all sources from April 10, 1893, to April 10, 1894, have been as follows:

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS.

Liquor licenses	$17,783 01
Tax for general city purposes	38,291 01
Dane county — one-half expenses municipal court	377 05

Billiard licenses	$511 40
Licenses to sell on streets	139 00
Show licenses	112 00
Hack licenses	90 00
Steamboat licenses	85 00
Costs and fees collected in municipal court	253 05
Fines collected in city cases, municipal court	425 00
Sewer permits	40 00
Drainage licenses	15 00
Proceeds of entertainments for the benefit of the contagious hospital	571 47
Collected from patients at hospital	23 00
Young Ladies' Missionary Society of Madison, donation to city hospital	27 00
Andrew Kinnair, payment on quarry contract	400 00
C. F. Harrington, team bought of Fire Department	125 00
Jas. M. Kelly, use of steam roller	100 00
Board of Education, paid for grading	180 25
Village of Prairie du Sac, old hose reel	20 00
By Martin Hinrichs, Street Superintendent, for stone and granite sold: Sullivan, $5; McCarthy, $106.75; Soelch, $4.36; Miller, $4.86	120 97
By Martin Hinrichs, Street Superintendent, from sundry parties for removing rubbish, snow or ice, grading sidewalks, etc	27 87
Total	$59,717 08

SPECIAL FUND RECEIPTS.

Board of Education, tax 1893	$34,585 32
Water fund — Extension bonds sold	10,000 00
Water fund — Tax 1893	10,000 00
Water fund — Water rents collected	17,633 80
Water fund — Water permits collected	284 00
Water fund — Supplies sold	266 65
Dane county — State and county taxes	42,487 65
Special street repair fund — Bonds sold	15,000 00
Bond fund (sinking fund), tax 1893	2,888 24
Interest on water bonds, tax 1893	1,400 00
Interest on street repair bonds, tax 1893	337 50
Interest on refunding bonds, tax 1893	7,625 00
Dane county — Fines in state cases	1,153 00
Special street repair fund — Paid by Madison City Railway Co. for macadam between tracks	600 00

Forest Hill cemetery fund, tax 1893	$500 00
Forest Hill cemetery fund, sale of lots, etc	988 61
Free library fund, tax 1893	2,500 00
Free library fund, fines and dues	70 00
Special sidewalk taxes	1,132 93
Special sewer tax	2,002 68
Tax for judgments	5,705 06
Langdon street special fund, tax, etc	143 91
N. Carroll " " " "	383 16
Gilman " " " "	883 74
E. Gorham " " " "	497 35
W. Gorham " " " "	613 98
State " " " "	738 84
Pinckney " " " "	222 22
S. Carroll " " " " (Main to Doty)	67 17
Butler " " " "	319 88
Murray " " " "	134 88
Lake " " " "	425 12
Wilson " " " "	4,828 57
Francis " " " "	792 54
W. Johnson " " " tax and bonds	7,516 08
E. Johnson " " " " "	3,700 07
N. Hancock " " " " "	974 69
N. Butler " " " " "	1,922 60
Henry " " " " "	3,511 10
Park " " " " "	3,180 30
S. Carroll " " " " " (Doty to Lake)	1,949 55
Patterson " " " " "	1,835 96
Mendota Court " " " "	758 52
Mifflin street fund — Bonds	2,000 00
Total	$194,560 67

The expenditures from April 10, 1893, to April 10, 1894, have been as follows:

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES.

Expended for labor and material on general street improvements, street cleaning, repairs	$12,043 30
Street lighting — Electric light, $6,131.75; gas, $2,056.50; oil lamps, $840	9,028 25
Salaries — City Surveyor, $1,000; Street Superintendent, $1,000	2,000 00
Care and subsistence city teams, drivers' pay, feed, shoeing, etc.	2,360 33

Expenses at city hall, janitor, fuel, light, etc.	$1,585 27
Printing	703 77
Expenses prosecutions under city ordinances, judge's and clerk's salaries, stationery, blanks, etc.	1,706 92
City Clerk's salary	1,200 00
City Treasurer's salary	1,200 00
Legal services, City Attorney's salary, etc.	975 64
Expenses assessment and collection of taxes	1,129 82
Election expenses	795 12
Pound expenses	365 00
Costs in suits	122 00
Fire department expenses	6,269 66
Electric fire alarm	2,691 50
Police expenses	5,840 45
Health expenses, including City Hospital expenses	4,434 06
Sewerage repairs	601 40
Abating nuisances	17 00
Refunded taxes	19 71
Land for sewage disposal plant	1,620 00
Payment on lots bought of Mrs. Mack	500 00
Paid Dr. O. M. Twitchell in settlement	100 00
Paid Mrs. A. E. Pettengill for injury	75 00
Weed Commissioner's salary	52 50
Paid Samantha Emmons in settlement	250 00
Roofing election booths	163 25
Steamboat inspection	42 50
Printing bonds	23 00
Expenses at Orton Park	13 50
	$57,928 95

Special Fund Expenditures.

Dane county — State and county taxes	$42,487 65
Board of Education	34,585 32
Water-works, construction	25,004 87
Water-works, operating expenses	9,814 44
Water-works, repairs	43 01
Dane county — State fines	1,595 00
Water bonds paid	8,500 00
Judgment paid — Marcia Reed	3,387 97
Judgment paid — August Laue	2,251 87
Special street repair fund — Expended for labor and material	12,351 54
Free Library fund — Vouchers paid	2,370 31

Forest Hill cemetery fund	$1,214 42
Special sidewalk fund — Paid to contractors	731 72
Special sewer tax — Paid to contractors	1,871 39
Langdon street special fund — Bonds and interest paid	129 20
N. Carroll " " " " " "	308 00
Gilman " " " " " "	888 00
E. Gorham " " " " " "	686 00
W. Gorham " " " " " "	616 00
State " " " " " "	584 00
Pinckney " " " " " "	184 00
S. Carroll " " " " " "	24 00
Butler " " " " " "	901 23
Murray " " " " " "	224 50
Lake " " " " " "	360 00
Wilson " " " " " "	7,793 76
Francis " " " " " "	1,180 10
W. Johnson " " " " " "	5,444 45
E. Johnson " " " " " "	2,655 49
N. Hancock " " " " " "	863 41
N. Butler " " " " " "	1,580 24
Henry street special fund — Paid contractors	2,776 10
Park " " " " "	2,496 41
S. Carroll " " " " "	1,797 19
Patterson " " " " "	2,076 04
Mendota Court " " " "	589 78
Mifflin street " " " "	1,909 23
Paid interest on water bonds	1,600 00
Paid interest on refunding bonds	7,625 00
Total	$191,501 64

Recapitulation.

Balance on hand April 10, 1893	$48,795 59	
General fund receipts	59,717 08	
Special fund receipts	194,560 67	
General fund expenditures		$57,928 95
Special fund expenditures		191,501 64
On hand April 10, 1894		53,642 75
	$303,073 34	$303,073 34

There was transferred during the year:

From the water fund to the bond fund	$5,000 00
From poll-tax fund to general fund	85 00

The funds in the treasury April 10, 1894, belong to funds as follows:

Interest on refunding bonds	$7,625 00
Interest on special street repair bonds	337 50
Interest on water bonds	1,400 00
Bond fund	8,049 21
Dane county, fines	170 00
Forest Hill cemetery fund	3,613 96
Free Library fund	4,477 42
Special sidewalk fund	489 68
Special sewer tax fund	131 29
Water fund	749 52
Special street repair fund	3,248 46
Special street funds	10,159 58
General fund	13,191 13
	$53,642 75

The balance now in the general fund will, it is estimated, be increased prior to the next tax levy by receipts from the following sources:

Liquor licenses	$15,000 00	
Show licenses	150 00	
Billiard licenses	400 00	
Hack licenses	100 00	
Steamboat licenses	75 00	
Total	$15,725 00	
Adding the balance now in the general fund	13,191 13	
Makes the total amount available for general city purposes		$28,916 13
The expenses for the month of March for which accounts have been allowed out of the general fund by the council since April 10th amount to	$4,877 54	
And the estimated expenses for the first half of April	1,500 00	
Making the sum of		$6,377 54
To be deducted, which leaves the net available amount		$22,538 59

As it requires about $3,000 per month to pay the running expenses of the city for the seven months before the next tax becomes available, it will be seen that the amount available for general street improvements is quite insignificant.

The bonded indebtedness of the city on the 1st day of April, 1894, was:

Watertown Railroad bond (outlawed)	$1,000 00
Original water bonds	23,500 00
Water-works extension bonds	10,000 00
Refunding bonds	152,500 00
Special street improvement and repair bonds	65,800 00
Board of Education indebtedness	51,000 00
Total	$303,800 00

On the 2d day of April there was deposited in the State Bank by the city $8,000 to take up water bonds called in for payment, and special street improvement bonds to the amount of $4,900 have been taken up and paid in full since that date, leaving the total indebtedness at this writing $290,900.

From the preceding statement it appears that the whole amount of money available for general city purposes prior to the next tax levy will be $22,538.59, of which $21,000 will be required to pay the running expenses of the city, leaving the sum of $1,538.59 for city improvements, which sum, together with an unexpended balance of about $3,500 of the $15,000 borrowed last year, comprises the whole amount applicable to permanent city improvements during the present year.

The tax for general city purposes one year ago was $39,822.04, while that for the past year was $38,291.01, indicating that as the city's needs increase its revenues for general city purposes decrease; and this is liable to be the case so long as the demands of the State, County, Board of Education, interest and indebtedness must first be taken care of, no matter what amount is demanded, and the balance (whatever can be levied within the two per cent. authorized by law) constitutes the general fund. In other words, the common council has to content itself with so much of the two per cent. tax as other needs do not exact, and with that sum carry on the city government as best it can, and make such improvements as its limited means will allow, patiently waiting for a natural increase in the city valuation

of property or a diminution of the annual fixed charges against the receipts from the tax roll.

The streets of the city as a whole were never in as good condition as at the present time, a fact largely due to a liberal public policy and private enterprise. The city now has over twelve miles of paved streets, and the good work still goes on, and should meet our hearty encouragement. In connection with street paving the question of street sprinkling at the expense of private property should receive attention, as it is believed more advantageous rates could be obtained by the city than by private individuals, and a majority or two-thirds of the property owners on any street should have the power through the common council to require their less enterprising neighbors to render pecuniary aid in contributing to the general comfort. No good reason seems to exist why the common council should not order and contract for the sprinkling of the streets in the same manner as sidewalks are ordered constructed and repaired.

An examination of the sidewalks in the city will bear out the statement that the walks were never in better condition generally than at the present time, and that they may be kept so will require the diligent efforts of the proper city officers, and the hearty aid and co-operation of citizens and tax-payers. The necessity of keeping sidewalks in repair should be impressed upon the mind of every freeholder, for at no time in municipal history has the occupation of seeking cause for damages against cities been in a more apparently healthy and flourishing condition, here and elsewhere, than within the past few years, and the constant care and watchfulness of city officers, and the tax-payers who are called to pay these damages, should be exercised in limiting the field of this growing occupation.

One year ago attention was called to the necessity of taking the sewage of the city out of the lakes and disposing of it in some other way than fouling the waters within the

city limits. The last council had plans prepared for conducting the sewage from the lake ends of the present sewers to a point beyond the Yahara river, where chemical purification is contemplated, and where grounds for precipitation works were purchased by our predecessors. The plans for this needed improvement are on file for your examination, and it is urged that the proper committee and the council give to this subject the prompt attention which its merits demand, and that an early beginning be made in the effort to restore and preserve the purity and healthfulness of the waters surrounding the city.

The public school accommodations have been increased the past year by doubling the capacity of the Third ward building, which has relieved to a marked degree the overcrowded condition of many of the other ward-school buildings. A new eight-room building is now in course of construction in the Sixth ward. This is an improvement long needed, and when completed will be the finest and most complete ward-school building in the city. For these improvements funds were borrowed from the State, and the annual instalments of tax levied to pay principal and interest of these loans curtails to that extent the amount of money coming into the general fund; but as the money is spent in educating the future citizens of Madison, we of to-day should take pride in being able to contribute toward the preparation of those who will soon take our places, and who by our liberality will be better equipped to do the work they will be called on to perform.

The attendance on the public schools seems to be increasing, indicating the high favor in which the schools are held as well as the steady growth of the city.

The Free City Library in an unobtrusive way continues to aid and supplement the work of the schools, and affords a pleasant and instructive resort for young and old in leisure hours. The means set apart for its maintenance and

extension seem inadequate, and should be increased if possible.

The city water system is steadily increasing in patronage. The water takers October 1st last numbered 1,701, and the total cost of the works to that date was $271,435.96. The receipts for water rents and permits for the year ending October 1, 1893, were $16,499.70, and the operating expenses during the same period were $10,458.79. Inasmuch as the city is now well provided with fire hydrants, water mains should not be laid except in places where sufficient number of consumers can be obtained to pay interest on the investment; and it is believed that the water rents should pay the operating expenses and all needed extensions without annual taxation. Two new wells were added to the system the past year, making ten in all, and it is believed that the water supply will be sufficient for the next four or five years unless wastefully used.

The Fire Department has during the past year been supplied with the Gamewell fire-alarm system and additional hose, and is in fine working condition. Every citizen feels pride in the harmony prevailing among companies, officers and members, and in the promptness with which calls to duty are responded to. Every reasonable demand to preserve its efficiency and extend its usefulness should be cheerfully met.

In conclusion, I trust that harmony and good feeling will characterize our meetings during the coming year, and that in the discharge of our respective duties we shall be animated to serve the people to the best of our abilities.

JOHN CORSCOT.

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